

Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-07

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DRAFTED BY EB/OT/STA:MCJONES:MEH

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MADRID

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, SP

SUBJECT: COUNTERVAILING DUTY INVESTIGATION -- BOTTLED
OLIVES AND FOOTWEAR

REF: MADRID 6067

1. WE HAVE NOW RECEIVED SPANISH NOTE (WITH EMBASSY
TRANSLATION) REPLYING TO QUESTIONNAIRE ON SHOES AND
OLIVES. FORMAL RESPONSE WILL BE FORWARDED WHEN SPANISH
SUBMISSION HAS BEEN ANALYZED, BUT AT FIRST READING IT
APPEARS TO CONTAIN USEFUL INFORMATION.

2. WHEN APPROPRIATE OPPORTUNITY ARISES, EMBASSY MAY DRAW
ON FOLLOWING IN RESPONSE TO POINTS RAISED BY MFA OFFICIAL
REPORTED IN REFTEL.

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A) ALL COUNTERVAILING DUTY PETITIONS INVOLVING SPANISH IMPORTS ARE AVAILABLE TO PUBLIC AND WE ARE CONFIDENT SPANISH EMBASSY HAS COPIES OF SUCH PETITIONS. THESE COMPLAINTS ARE PREPARED BY AFFECTED US INDUSTRIES OR FIRMS, AND CONTAIN ALLEGATIONS OF SUBSIDIZED EXPORTS WHICH ARE NOT ALWAYS AS PRECISE OR CONCRETE AS MIGHT BE WISHED. TREASURY, UNDER US LEGISLATION, HAS RESPONSIBILITY FOR DETERMINING WHETHER ALLEGATIONS OF BOUNTIES OR GRANTS ARE

SERIOUS ENOUGH OR DETAILED ENOUGH TO WARRANT INVESTIGATION. IF PETITION IS ACCEPTED--AND MANY ARE REJECTED--TREASURY THEN ASKS RESPECTIVE GOVERNMENT TO COMMENT ON ALLEGATIONS.

B) WE UNDERSTAND AND APPRECIATE THE TIME AND EFFORT TO RESPOND TO THE QUESTIONNAIRE, BUT AN INFORMED DECISION ON SUCH COMPLAINTS CANNOT BE REACHED UNTIL CONCRETE INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE ON BOTH NATURE OF SPANISH EXPORT PROGRAMS AND EXTENT TO WHICH GIVEN INDUSTRY USES THEM. LENGTHY QUESTIONNAIRE PRESENTED BY TREASURY ON SHOES AND OLIVES WAS THUS INTENDED TO OBTAIN INFORMATION NEEDED REGARDING THOSE PRODUCTS, AND WE ARE CERTAINLY PREPARED TO CLARIFY OR AMPLIFY ANY POINTS WHICH GOS WISHES TO RAISE.

3. WITH REGARD TO SPANISH DESIRE TO ADDRESS COUNTERVAILING DUTY ISSUE WITHIN FRAMEWORK OF JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE, WE AGREE THAT THOROUGH DISCUSSION IN THAT CONTEXT WOULD BE USEFUL AND APPROPRIATE. HOWEVER, DEPENDING ON THE TIMING AND AGENDA OF THIS COMMITTEE, AN ALTERNATIVE WOULD BE TO DISCUSS THE COUNTERVAIL ISSUE IN A BILATERAL MEETING. KISSINGER

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